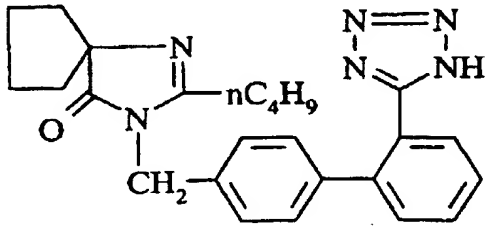
1. (Amended) A [C]crystalline compound of formula:



(I)

having a crystal habit[us] such that the ratio between the length and the width of the crystals is between 1:1 and 10:1.

2. (Amended) A [C]crystalline compound according to Claim 1, in which the ratio between the length and the width of the crystals is between 1:1 and 5:1.

3. (Amended) A [N]novel crystalline form of irbesartan of form A [, characterized in that] wherein the ratio between the length and the width of the crystals is between 1:1 and 5:1.

4. (Amended) A [P]process for preparing a compound according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] Claim 1 wherein a crystalline suspension of a compound of formula (I) is subjected to at least one sonication episode and at least one temperature oscillation episode.

5. (Amended) A [P]process for preparing a compound to [any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] Claim 1 wherein a crystalline suspension of irbesartan of acicular habit form A is subjected to at least one sonication episode and at least one temperature oscillation episode.

6. (Amended) A [P]process according to [either of Claims 4 and 5,] Claim 5 in which the temperature oscillation episode comprises a heating phase and a corresponding cooling phase.

7. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 6, in which the heating phase precedes the cooling phase.

8. . (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 7, in which the sonication episode is followed by a temperature oscillation episode.

9. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 5 [either of Claims 4 and 5,] in which the sonication episode is preceded by a temperature oscillation episode.

10. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 5 [either of Claims 4 and 5,] in which the sonication episode is carried out simultaneously with the temperature oscillation episode.

11. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 5 [either of Claims 4 and 5,] in which a sonication episode is carried out between 2 temperature oscillation episodes.

12. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 5 [either of Claims 4 and 5,] in which the sonication and/or temperature oscillation episodes are repeated independently.

13. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 5 [either of Claims 4 and 5,] in which the sonication is carried out in batches, semi-continuously or continuously.

14. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 7, in which the heating phase of the temperature oscillation episode is carried out at a temperature of between about 20°C and 100°C.

15. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 7, in which the heating phase of the temperature oscillation episode is carried out at a temperature such that about 15% to 25% of the crystals are dissolved in about 60 minutes.

16. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 7, in which the cooling phase of the temperature oscillation episode is carried out at a temperature of between about 100°C and -20°C.

17. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 7, in which the cooling phase of the temperature oscillation episode is carried out at a temperature of between about -5°C and 20°C.

18. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 7, in which the temperature selected for the cooling phase of the temperature oscillation episode is less than the temperature selected for the corresponding heating phase of the temperature oscillation episode.

19. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 7, in which the crystalline suspension is seeded with irbesartan crystals whose ratio between the length and the width is between 1:1 and 10:1.

20. (Amended) A [P]process for preparing a compound according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it contains the steps consisting in] Claim 1 comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a solution of irbesartan acicular habit form A in an alcohol, under concentration and temperature conditions which allow the total solubility of the irbesartan;

b) cooling the said solution to a temperature selected as a function of the concentration of the solution, such that the solution is in the metastable zone;

c) seeding with irbesartan crystals of brick habit;

d) cooling the irbesartan solution to a temperature of between about 20°C and 5°C;

e) subjecting the crystalline suspension thus formed to a mechanical shearing using a shearing machine;

f) heating the crystalline suspension to a temperature of between about 40°C and 60°C to dissolve the fine particles;

g) cooling the crystalline suspension to a temperature of between about 20°C and 5°C;

h) filtering off the crystals of brick habit thus formed.

21. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 20, in which, in step a), the irbesartan is dissolved in isopropanol.

22. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 20, in which, in step b), a solution containing 50 g/litre to 70 g/litre of irbesartan in isopropanol is cooled to a temperature ranging between 60°C and 80°C.

23. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 20, in which, in step c), the solution is seeded with irbesartan crystals whose ratio between the length and the width is between 1:1 and 10:1.

24. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 23, in which the seeded solution is maintained at a temperature of between 80°C and 22°C for a few minutes to about 2 hours, before being cooled.

25. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 21, in which, in steps b) and d), the rate of cooling is from about 5°C to 20°C per hour.

26. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 20, in which, in step e), the mechanical shearing is carried out by a machine having a spin speed of about from 10 000 rpm to 15 000 rpm.

27. (Amended) A [P]process according to Claim 26, in which the mechanical shearing in step e) is carried out either by placing the shearing machine directly in the reactor or by passing the crystalline suspension into the shearing machine.

28. (Amended) A [P]pharmaceutical composition comprising [containing] a compound according to Claim 1 [any one of Claims 1 to 3] and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

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29. (Amended) A [P]pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28 further comprising [, containing] a diuretic agent [combined with a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3].

30. (Amended) A [P]pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 29, in which the diuretic agent is hydrochlorothiazide.

Please add the following new claims:

31. A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 2 wherein a crystalline suspension of a compound of formula (I) is subjected to at least one sonication episode and at least one temperature oscillation episode.

A2

32. A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 3 wherein a crystalline suspension of a compound of formula (I) is subjected to at least one sonication episode and at least one temperature oscillation episode.

33. A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 2 wherein a crystalline suspension of irbesartan of acicular habit form A is subjected to at least one sonication episode and at least one temperature oscillation episode.

34. A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 3 wherein a crystalline suspension of irbesartan of acicular habit form A is subjected to at least one sonication episode and at least one temperature oscillation episode.

35. A process according to Claim 4 in which the temperature oscillation episode comprises a heating phase and a corresponding cooling phase.

36. A process according to Claim 4 in which the sonication episode is preceded by a temperature oscillation episode.

37. A process according to Claim 4 in which the sonication episode is carried out simultaneously with the temperature oscillation episode.

38. A process according to Claim 4 in which a sonication episode is carried out between 2 temperature oscillation episodes.

39. A process according to Claim 4 in which the sonication and/or temperature oscillation episodes are repeated independently.

40. A process according to Claim 4 in which the sonication is carried out in batches, semi-continuously or continuously.

41. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 2 and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

42. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 3 and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

43. A method for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a compound according to Claim 1.

44. A method for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a compound according to Claim 2.

45. A method for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a compound according to Claim 3.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended in order to insert an appropriate Abstract of the invention.